

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6349

To establish within the Department of Homeland Security an Office of Emergency Communications that will carry out the department's responsibilities related to emergency communications.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2006

Mr. BARTON of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish within the Department of Homeland Security an Office of Emergency Communications that will carry out the department's responsibilities related to emergency communications.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “21st Century Emergency Communications Act of 2006”.

1 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of
2 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the
3 end the following new title:

4 **“TITLE XVIII—EMERGENCY**
5 **COMMUNICATIONS**

6 **“SEC. 1801. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the De-
8 partment an Office of Emergency Communications.

9 “(b) DIRECTOR.—The head of the office shall be the
10 Director for Emergency Communications. The Director
11 shall report to the Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity
12 and Communications.

13 “(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director for Emer-
14 gency Communications shall—

15 “(1) assist the Secretary in developing and im-
16 plementing the program described in section
17 7303(a)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism
18 Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 194(a)(1)), except
19 as provided in section 314;

20 “(2) administer the Department’s responsibil-
21 ities and authorities relating to the SAFECOM Pro-
22 gram, excluding elements related to research, devel-
23 opment, testing, and evaluation and standards;

1 “(3) administer the Department’s responsibil-
2 ities and authorities relating to the Integrated Wire-
3 less Network program;

4 “(4) conduct extensive, nationwide outreach to
5 support and promote the ability of emergency re-
6 sponse providers and relevant government officials to
7 continue to communicate in the event of natural dis-
8 asters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disas-
9 ters;

10 “(5) conduct extensive, nationwide outreach and
11 foster the development of interoperable emergency
12 communications capabilities by State, regional, local,
13 and tribal governments and public safety agencies,
14 and by regional consortia thereof;

15 “(6) provide technical assistance to State, re-
16 gional, local, and tribal government officials with re-
17 spect to use of interoperable emergency communica-
18 tions capabilities;

19 “(7) coordinate with the Regional Administra-
20 tors regarding the activities of Regional Emergency
21 Communications Coordination Working Groups
22 under section 1805;

23 “(8) promote the development of standard oper-
24 ating procedures and best practices with respect to
25 use of interoperable emergency communications ca-

1 pabilities for incident response, and facilitate the
2 sharing of information on such best practices for
3 achieving, maintaining, and enhancing interoperable
4 emergency communications capabilities for such re-
5 sponse;

6 “(9) coordinate, in cooperation with the Na-
7 tional Communications System, the establishment of
8 a national response capability with initial and ongo-
9 ing planning, implementation, and training for the
10 deployment of communications equipment for rel-
11 evant State, local, and tribal governments and emer-
12 gency response providers in the event of a cata-
13 strophic loss of local and regional emergency com-
14 munications services;

15 “(10) assist the President, the National Secu-
16 rity Council, the Homeland Security Council, and
17 the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
18 et in ensuring the continued operation of the tele-
19 communications functions and responsibilities of the
20 Federal Government, excluding spectrum manage-
21 ment;

22 “(11) establish, in coordination with the Direc-
23 tor of the Office for Interoperability and Compat-
24 ibility, requirements for interoperable emergency
25 communications capabilities, which shall be non-

1 proprietary where standards for such capabilities
2 exist, for all public safety radio and data commu-
3 nications systems and equipment purchased using
4 homeland security assistance administered by the
5 Department, excluding any alert and warning device,
6 technology, or system;

7 “(12) review, in consultation with the Assistant
8 Secretary for Grants and Training, all interoperable
9 emergency communications plans of Federal, State,
10 local, and tribal governments, including Statewide
11 and tactical interoperability plans, developed pursu-
12 ant to homeland security assistance administered by
13 the Department, but excluding spectrum allocation
14 and management related to such plans;

15 “(13) develop and update periodically, as appro-
16 priate, a National Emergency Communications Plan
17 under section 1802;

18 “(14) perform such other duties of the Depart-
19 ment necessary to support and promote the ability
20 of emergency response providers and relevant gov-
21 ernment officials to continue to communicate in the
22 event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and
23 other man-made disasters; and

24 “(15) perform other duties of the Department
25 necessary to achieve the goal of and maintain and

1 enhance interoperable emergency communications
2 capabilities.

3 “(d) PERFORMANCE OF PREVIOUSLY TRANSFERRED
4 FUNCTIONS.—The Secretary shall transfer to, and admin-
5 ister through, the Director for Emergency Communica-
6 tions the following programs and responsibilities:

7 “(1) The SAFECOM Program, excluding ele-
8 ments related to research, development, testing, and
9 evaluation and standards.

10 “(2) The responsibilities of the Chief Informa-
11 tion Officer related to the implementation of the In-
12 tegrated Wireless Network.

13 “(3) The Interoperable Communications Tech-
14 nical Assistance Program.

15 “(e) COORDINATION.—The Director for Emergency
16 Communications shall coordinate—

17 “(1) as appropriate, with the Director of the
18 Office for Interoperability and Compatibility with re-
19 spect to the responsibilities described in section 314;
20 and

21 “(2) with the Administrator of the Federal
22 Emergency Management Agency with respect to the
23 responsibilities described in this title.

24 “(f) SUFFICIENCY OF RESOURCES PLAN.—

1 “(1) support and promote the ability of emer-
2 gency response providers and relevant government
3 officials to continue to communicate in the event of
4 natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-
5 made disasters; and

6 “(2) ensure, accelerate, and attain interoperable
7 emergency communications nationwide.

8 “(b) COORDINATION.—The Emergency Communica-
9 tions Preparedness Center under section 1806 shall co-
10 ordinate the development of the Federal aspects of the Na-
11 tional Emergency Communications Plan.

12 “(c) CONTENTS.—The National Emergency Commu-
13 nications Plan shall—

14 “(1) include recommendations developed in con-
15 sultation with the Federal Communications Commis-
16 sion and the National Institute of Standards and
17 Technology for a process for expediting national vol-
18 untary consensus standards for emergency commu-
19 nications equipment for the purchase and use by
20 public safety agencies of interoperable emergency
21 communications equipment and technologies;

22 “(2) identify the appropriate capabilities nec-
23 essary for emergency response providers and rel-
24 evant government officials to continue to commu-

1 nicate in the event of natural disasters, acts of ter-
2 rorism, and other man-made disasters;

3 “(3) identify the appropriate interoperable
4 emergency communications capabilities necessary for
5 Federal, State, local, and tribal governments in the
6 event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and
7 other man-made disasters;

8 “(4) recommend both short-term and long-term
9 solutions for ensuring that emergency response pro-
10 viders and relevant government officials can continue
11 to communicate in the event of natural disasters,
12 acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters;

13 “(5) recommend both short-term and long-term
14 solutions for deploying interoperable emergency com-
15 munications systems for Federal, State, local, and
16 tribal governments throughout the Nation, including
17 through the provision of existing and emerging tech-
18 nologies;

19 “(6) identify how Federal departments and
20 agencies that respond to natural disasters, acts of
21 terrorism, and other man-made disasters can work
22 effectively with State, local, and tribal governments,
23 in all States, and with other entities;

24 “(7) identify obstacles to deploying interoper-
25 able emergency communications capabilities nation-

1 wide and recommend short-term and long-term
2 measures to overcome those obstacles, including rec-
3 ommendations for multijurisdictional coordination
4 among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments;

5 “(8) recommend goals and timeframes for the
6 deployment of emergency, command-level commu-
7 nications systems based on new and existing equip-
8 ment across the United States and develop a time-
9 table for the deployment of interoperable emergency
10 communications systems nationwide; and

11 “(9) recommend appropriate measures that
12 emergency response providers should employ to en-
13 sure the continued operation of relevant govern-
14 mental communications infrastructure in the event
15 of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-
16 made disasters.

17 **“SEC. 1803. ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS.**

18 “(a) BASELINE ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year
19 after the date of enactment of this section and not less
20 than every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, acting
21 through the Director for Emergency Communications,
22 shall conduct an assessment of Federal, State, local, and
23 tribal governments that—

24 “(1) defines the range of capabilities needed by
25 emergency response providers and relevant govern-

1 ment officials to continue to communicate in the
2 event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and
3 other man-made disasters;

4 “(2) defines the range of interoperable emer-
5 gency communications capabilities needed for spe-
6 cific events;

7 “(3) assesses the current available capabilities
8 to meet such communications needs;

9 “(4) identifies the gap between such current ca-
10 pabilities and defined requirements; and

11 “(5) includes a national interoperable emer-
12 gency communications inventory to be completed by
13 the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary
14 of Commerce, and the Chairman of the Federal
15 Communications Commission that—

16 “(A) identifies for each Federal depart-
17 ment and agency—

18 “(i) the channels and frequencies
19 used;

20 “(ii) the nomenclature used to refer to
21 each channel or frequency used; and

22 “(iii) the types of communications
23 systems and equipment used; and

1 “(B) identifies the interoperable emergency
2 communications systems in use by public safety
3 agencies in the United States.

4 “(b) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—The baseline assessment
5 under this section may include a classified annex including
6 information provided under subsection (a)(5)(A).

7 “(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—In conducting the baseline
8 assessment under this section, the Secretary may incor-
9 porate findings from assessments conducted before, or on-
10 going on, the date of enactment of this title.

11 “(d) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than one year
12 after the date of enactment of this section and biennially
13 thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Director for
14 Emergency Communications, shall submit to Congress a
15 report on the progress of the Department in achieving the
16 goals of, and carrying out its responsibilities under, this
17 title, including—

18 “(1) a description of the findings of the most
19 recent baseline assessment conducted under sub-
20 section (a);

21 “(2) a determination of the degree to which
22 interoperable emergency communications capabilities
23 have been attained to date and the gaps that remain
24 for interoperability to be achieved;

1 “(3) an evaluation of the ability to continue to
2 communicate and to provide and maintain interoper-
3 able emergency communications by emergency man-
4 agers, emergency response providers, and relevant
5 government officials in the event of—

6 “(A) natural disasters, acts of terrorism,
7 or other man-made disasters, including Inci-
8 dents of National Significance declared by the
9 Secretary under the National Response Plan;
10 and

11 “(B) a catastrophic loss of local and re-
12 gional communications services;

13 “(4) a list of best practices relating to the abil-
14 ity to continue to communicate and to provide and
15 maintain interoperable emergency communications
16 in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism,
17 or other man-made disasters; and

18 “(5) an evaluation of the feasibility and desir-
19 ability of the Department developing, on its own or
20 in conjunction with the Department of Defense, a
21 mobile communications capability, modeled on the
22 Army Signal Corps, that could be deployed to sup-
23 port emergency communications at the site of nat-
24 ural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made
25 disasters.

1 **“SEC. 1804. COORDINATION OF DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY**
2 **COMMUNICATIONS GRANT PROGRAMS.**

3 “(a) COORDINATION OF GRANTS AND STANDARDS
4 PROGRAMS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director
5 for Emergency Communications, shall ensure that grant
6 guidelines for the use of homeland security assistance ad-
7 ministered by the Department relating to interoperable
8 emergency communications are coordinated and consistent
9 with the goals and recommendations in the National
10 Emergency Communications Plan under section 1802.

11 “(b) DENIAL OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
13 through the Assistant Secretary for Grants and
14 Planning, and in consultation with the Director for
15 Emergency Communications, may prohibit any
16 State, local, or tribal government from using home-
17 land security assistance administered by the Depart-
18 ment to achieve, maintain, or enhance emergency
19 communications capabilities, if—

20 “(A) such government has not complied
21 with the requirement to submit a Statewide
22 Interoperable Communications Plan as required
23 by section 7303(f) of the Intelligence Reform
24 and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6
25 U.S.C. 194(f));

1 “(B) such government has proposed to up-
2 grade or purchase new equipment or systems
3 that do not meet or exceed any applicable na-
4 tional voluntary consensus standards and has
5 not provided a reasonable explanation of why
6 such equipment or systems will serve the needs
7 of the applicant better than equipment or sys-
8 tems that meet or exceed such standards; and

9 “(C) as of the date that is 3 years after
10 the date of the completion of the initial Na-
11 tional Emergency Communications Plan under
12 section 1802, national voluntary consensus
13 standards for interoperable emergency commu-
14 nications capabilities have not been developed
15 and promulgated.

16 “(2) STANDARDS.—The Secretary, in coordina-
17 tion with the Federal Communications Commission,
18 the National Institute of Standards and Technology,
19 and other Federal departments and agencies with re-
20 sponsibility for standards, shall support the develop-
21 ment, promulgation, and updating as necessary of
22 national voluntary consensus standards for inter-
23 operable emergency communications.

1 **“SEC. 1805. REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CO-**
2 **ORDINATION.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in each Re-
4 gional Office a Regional Emergency Communications Co-
5 ordination Working Group (in this section referred to as
6 an ‘RECC Working Group’). Each RECC Working Group
7 shall report to the relevant Regional Administrator and
8 coordinate its activities with the relevant Regional Advi-
9 sory Council.

10 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—Each RECC Working Group
11 shall consist of the following:

12 “(1) NON-FEDERAL.—Organizations rep-
13 resenting the interests of the following:

14 “(A) State officials.

15 “(B) Local government officials, including
16 sheriffs.

17 “(C) State police departments.

18 “(D) Local police departments.

19 “(E) Local fire departments.

20 “(F) Public safety answering points (9–1–
21 1 services).

22 “(G) State emergency managers, homeland
23 security directors, or representatives of State
24 Administrative Agencies.

25 “(H) Local emergency managers or home-
26 land security directors.

1 “(I) Other emergency response providers
2 as appropriate.

3 “(2) FEDERAL.—Representatives from the De-
4 partment, the Federal Communications Commission,
5 and other Federal departments and agencies with re-
6 sponsibility for coordinating interoperable emergency
7 communications with or providing emergency sup-
8 port services to State, local, and tribal governments.

9 “(c) COORDINATION.—Each RECC Working Group
10 shall coordinate its activities with the following:

11 “(1) Communications equipment manufacturers
12 and vendors (including broadband data service pro-
13 viders).

14 “(2) Local exchange carriers.

15 “(3) Local broadcast media.

16 “(4) Wireless carriers.

17 “(5) Satellite communications services.

18 “(6) Cable operators.

19 “(7) Hospitals.

20 “(8) Public utility services.

21 “(9) Emergency evacuation transit services.

22 “(10) Ambulance services.

23 “(11) HAM and amateur radio operators.

1 “(12) Representatives from other private sector
2 entities and nongovernmental organizations as the
3 Regional Administrator determines appropriate.

4 “(d) DUTIES.—The duties of each RECC Working
5 Group shall include—

6 “(1) assessing the survivability, sustainability,
7 and interoperability of local emergency communica-
8 tions systems to meet the goals of the National
9 Emergency Communications Plan;

10 “(2) reporting annually to the relevant Regional
11 Administrator, the Director for Emergency Commu-
12 nications, the Chairman of the Federal Communica-
13 tions Commission, and the Assistant Secretary for
14 Communications and Information of the Department
15 of Commerce on the status of its region in building
16 robust and sustainable interoperable voice and data
17 emergency communications networks and, not later
18 than 60 days after the completion of the initial Na-
19 tional Emergency Communications Plan under sec-
20 tion 1802, on the progress of the region in meeting
21 the goals of such plan;

22 “(3) ensuring a process for the coordination of
23 effective multijurisdictional, multi-agency emergency
24 communications networks for use during natural dis-
25 asters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disas-

1 ters through the expanded use of emergency man-
2 agement and public safety communications mutual
3 aid agreements; and

4 “(4) coordinating the establishment of Federal,
5 State, local, and tribal support services and net-
6 works designed to address the immediate and critical
7 human needs in responding to natural disasters, acts
8 of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

9 **“SEC. 1806. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PREPARED-**
10 **NESS CENTER.**

11 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the
12 Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (in this
13 section referred to as the ‘Center’).

14 “(b) OPERATION.—The Secretary, the Chairman of
15 the Federal Communications Commission, the Secretary
16 of Defense, the Secretary of Commerce, the Attorney Gen-
17 eral of the United States, and the heads of other Federal
18 departments and agencies or their designees shall jointly
19 operate the Center in accordance with the Memorandum
20 of Understanding entitled, ‘Emergency Communications
21 Preparedness Center (ECPC) Charter’.

22 “(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Center shall—

23 “(1) serve as the focal point for interagency ef-
24 forts and as a clearinghouse with respect to all rel-
25 evant intergovernmental information to support and

1 promote (including specifically by working to avoid
2 duplication, hindrances, and counteractive efforts
3 among the participating Federal departments and
4 agencies)—

5 “(A) the ability of emergency response pro-
6 viders and relevant government officials to con-
7 tinue to communicate in the event of natural
8 disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-
9 made disasters; and

10 “(B) interoperable emergency communica-
11 tions;

12 “(2) prepare and submit to Congress, on an an-
13 nual basis, a strategic assessment regarding the co-
14 ordination efforts of Federal departments and agen-
15 cies to advance—

16 “(A) the ability of emergency response pro-
17 viders and relevant government officials to con-
18 tinue to communicate in the event of natural
19 disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-
20 made disasters; and

21 “(B) interoperable emergency communica-
22 tions;

23 “(3) consider, in preparing the strategic assess-
24 ment under paragraph (2), the goals stated in the

1 National Emergency Communications Plan under
2 section 1802; and

3 “(4) perform such other functions as are pro-
4 vided in the Emergency Communications Prepared-
5 ness Center (ECPC) Charter described in subsection
6 (b)(1).

7 **“SEC. 1807. URBAN AND OTHER HIGH RISK AREA COMMU-
8 NICATIONS CAPABILITIES.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
10 with the Chairman of the Federal Communications Com-
11 mission and the Secretary of Defense, and with appro-
12 priate State, local, and tribal government officials, shall
13 provide technical guidance, training, and other assistance,
14 as appropriate, to support the rapid establishment of con-
15 sistent, secure, and effective interoperable emergency com-
16 munications capabilities in the event of an emergency in
17 urban and other areas determined by the Secretary to be
18 at consistently high levels of risk from natural disasters,
19 acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

20 “(b) MINIMUM CAPABILITIES.—The interoperable
21 emergency communications capabilities established under
22 subsection (a) shall ensure the ability of all levels of gov-
23 ernment, emergency response providers, the private sector,
24 and other organizations with emergency response capabili-
25 ties—

1 “(1) to communicate with each other in the
2 event of an emergency;

3 “(2) to have appropriate and timely access to
4 the Information Sharing Environment described in
5 section 1016 of the National Security Intelligence
6 Reform Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 321); and

7 “(3) to be consistent with any applicable State
8 or Urban Area homeland strategy or plan.

9 **“SEC. 1808. DEFINITION.**

10 “‘In this title, the term ‘interoperable’ has the mean-
11 ing given the term ‘interoperable communications’ under
12 section 7303(g)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Ter-
13 rorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 194(g)(1)).’”.

14 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
15 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
16 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the
17 following:

“TITLE XVIII—EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

“Sec. 1801. Office for Emergency Communications.

“Sec. 1802. National Emergency Communications Plan.

“Sec. 1803. Assessments and reports.

“Sec. 1804. Coordination of Federal emergency communications grant pro-
grams.

“Sec. 1805. Regional emergency communications coordination.

“Sec. 1806. Emergency Communications Preparedness Center.

“Sec. 1807. Urban and other high risk area communications capabilities.

“Sec. 1808. Definition.”.

1 **SEC. 2. OFFICE FOR INTEROPERABILITY AND COMPAT-**
2 **IBILITY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Secu-
4 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by
5 adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 314. OFFICE FOR INTEROPERABILITY AND COMPAT-**
7 **IBILITY.**

8 “(a) CLARIFICATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES.—The
9 Director of the Office for Interoperability and Compat-
10 ibility shall—

11 “(1) assist the Secretary in developing and im-
12 plementing the science and technology aspects of the
13 program described in subparagraphs (D), (E), (F),
14 and (G) of section 7303(a)(1) of the Intelligence Re-
15 form and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6
16 U.S.C. 194(a)(1));

17 “(2) in coordination with the Federal Commu-
18 nications Commission, the National Institute of
19 Standards and Technology, and other Federal de-
20 partments and agencies with responsibility for stand-
21 ards, support the creation of national voluntary con-
22 sensus standards for interoperable emergency com-
23 munications;

24 “(3) establish a comprehensive research, devel-
25 opment, testing, and evaluation program for improv-
26 ing interoperable emergency communications;

1 “(4) establish, in coordination with the Director
2 for Emergency Communications, requirements for
3 interoperable emergency communications capabilities,
4 ties, which shall be nonproprietary where standards
5 for such capabilities exist, for all public safety radio
6 and data communications systems and equipment
7 purchased using homeland security assistance ad-
8 ministered by the Department, excluding any alert
9 and warning device, technology, or system;

10 “(5) carry out the Department’s responsibilities
11 and authorities relating to research, development,
12 testing, evaluation, or standards-related elements of
13 the SAFECOM Program;

14 “(6) evaluate and assess new technology in real-
15 world environments to achieve interoperable emer-
16 gency communications capabilities;

17 “(7) encourage more efficient use of existing re-
18 sources, including equipment, to achieve interoper-
19 able emergency communications capabilities;

20 “(8) test public safety communications systems
21 that are less prone to failure, support new nonvoice
22 services, use spectrum more efficiently, and cost less
23 than existing systems;

24 “(9) coordinate with the private sector to de-
25 velop solutions to improve emergency communica-

1 tions capabilities and achieve interoperable emer-
2 gency communications capabilities; and

3 “(10) conduct pilot projects, in coordination
4 with the Director for Emergency Communications,
5 to test and demonstrate technologies, including data
6 and video, that enhance—

7 “(A) the ability of emergency response pro-
8 viders and relevant government officials to con-
9 tinue to communicate in the event of natural
10 disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-
11 made disasters; and

12 “(B) interoperable emergency communica-
13 tions capabilities.

14 “(b) COORDINATION.—The Director of the Office for
15 Interoperability and Compatibility shall coordinate with
16 the Director for Emergency Communications with respect
17 to the SAFECOM program.

18 “(c) SUFFICIENCY OF RESOURCES.—The Secretary
19 shall provide the Office for Interoperability and Compat-
20 ibility the resources and staff necessary to carry out the
21 responsibilities under this section.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
23 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
24 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item
25 relating to section 313 the following:

“Sec. 314. Office for Interoperability and Compatibility.”.

1 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPER-**
2 **ABILITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Secu-
4 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), as amended by
5 this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 315. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPER-**
7 **ABILITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Science
9 and Technology, acting through the Director of the Office
10 for Interoperability and Compatibility, shall establish a
11 comprehensive research and development program to sup-
12 port and promote—

13 “(1) the ability of emergency response providers
14 and relevant government officials to continue to
15 communicate in the event of natural disasters, acts
16 of terrorism, and other man-made disasters; and

17 “(2) interoperable emergency communications
18 capabilities among emergency response providers
19 and relevant government officials, including by—

20 “(A) supporting research on a competitive
21 basis, including through the Directorate of
22 Science and Technology and Homeland Security
23 Advanced Research Projects Agency; and

24 “(B) considering the establishment of a
25 Center of Excellence under the Department of
26 Homeland Security Centers of Excellence Pro-

1 gram focused on improving emergency response
2 providers' communication capabilities.

3 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program es-
4 tablished under subsection (a) include—

5 “(1) supporting research, development, testing,
6 and evaluation on emergency communication capa-
7 bilities;

8 “(2) understanding the strengths and weak-
9 nesses of the public safety communications systems
10 in use;

11 “(3) examining how current and emerging tech-
12 nology can make emergency response providers more
13 effective, and how Federal, State, local, and tribal
14 government agencies can use this technology in a co-
15 herent and cost-effective manner;

16 “(4) investigating technologies that could lead
17 to long-term advancements in emergency commu-
18 nications capabilities and supporting research on ad-
19 vanced technologies and potential systemic changes
20 to dramatically improve emergency communications;
21 and

22 “(5) evaluating and validating advanced tech-
23 nology concepts, and facilitating the development
24 and deployment of interoperable emergency commu-
25 nication capabilities.

1 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the
2 term ‘interoperable’, with respect to emergency commu-
3 nications, has the meaning given the term in section
4 1808.”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
6 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
7 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item
8 relating to section 314, as added by this Act, the following:

“Sec. 315. Emergency communications interoperability research and develop-
ment.”.

9 **SEC. 4. 911 AND E911 SERVICES REPORT.**

10 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
11 of this Act, the Chairman of the Federal Communications
12 Commission shall submit a report to Congress on the sta-
13 tus of efforts of State, local, and tribal governments to
14 develop plans for rerouting 911 and E911 services in the
15 event that public safety answering points are disabled dur-
16 ing natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-
17 made disasters.

18 **SEC. 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

19 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to transfer to
20 the Office of Emergency Communications any function,
21 personnel, asset, component, authority, grant program, or
22 liability of the Federal Emergency Management Agency
23 as constituted on June 1, 2006.

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